Excerpts from tape of the Mike Wallace program, Tuesday, 26 September 1967, 11:05 pm
Jim Garrison, interviewed by Joe Wershba

Garrison Actually, Joe, you finished up with several questions, so if I may, I'll answer them in this order, why the engines of government, as you say, have opposed us, and why Bobby Kennedy has, at least through Walter Sheridan and other indirect methods, opposed us. The government, elements of government, have no alternative, because the United States government is party to a major fraud. The Warren Commission inquiry is in actuality a cover-up of a conspiracy, and a rather apparent conspiracy which I think elements, major officials in the U.S. government, have to be aware of now. But the Warren Commission inquiry is a concealment, and nothing more, and the United States government is a party to the fraud, has participated, in effect, in the biggest fix in the human race. It is apparently in a position now where it has to, it's stuck with it--it has to defend the line regardless of what the facts were.

We have had a terrible problem moving forward because of the interference and complications caused by the United States Government. But the U.S. government, while it certainly was not a party to the plans for the assassination, is a party, an accessory after the fact, to the concealment of the real truth from the people. So this is why we have a problem here.

Now with regard to Kennedy, Senator Kennedy, I cannot go into his mind and I cannot say with certitude what motivates this man. I can only say that if my brother was killed, I would be interested in getting the individuals involved, no matter who they were, and I wouldn't be interested in any way in the political aspects. It may be that Bobby Kennedy is more interested in politics than I am. I happen to think that the only thing that's important is finding out the truth. If our government has tremendous complications, as a result of it, then let the government have complications. If the Central Intelligence Agency and its mode of operating under the motto the end justifies the means, becomes embarrassed as a result of the truth, then let the CIA be embarrassed. Let the chips fall where they may. But this is not the attitude of the government, nor is it the attitude of Senator Kennedy, as far as I can see. But again I must say in all fairness to Senator Kennedy, I do not know the man and I have to speculate there.

Question: (Does Garrison believe Marina Oswald's testimony that her husband tried to kill General Walker?)

Garrison Lee Oswald had about as much connection, Joe, with the so-called attmpt to kill General Walker, as you did. The role of Marina Oswald and her testimony has to be viewed in a different light from the more objective witnesses. Marina Oswald had long since been taken over and controlled, literally, by elements of the White Russian community in Dallas; and there are individuals in the White Russian community in Dallas who are involved in the assassination. As a matter of fact, this is the sort of thing that I was not able to say in the Playboy interview because we still had people in Dallas, so I'm really just talking about a corner of the entire conspiracy. But there are elements of the Dallas establishment that are deeply involved, and some of the members of the White Russian community are part of it. Now, they had total control of Marina; and Marina said, in many cases, what she was supposed to say, and instructed to say.

Question: What about the Dallas police?

Garrison Elements of the Dallas police are deeply involved in the assassination, and provably involved in the assassination. Again, this is a statement that I could not make at the time, because I had a man in Dallas for months, and I wanted him to be able to come back to New Orleans with his head still attached to his body. But when I say that, I have to add this: that I don't like, one of the reasons I dislike being

compared to McCarthy, besides the fact that I think he was a dangerous man, is that he had a tendency to use guilt by association, and to indict an entire group with the sweep of a hand. I am convinced that the majority of the Dallas police force was made up of honest, capable police officers. But the fact remains that you have a small hard core which is unlike most police forces in the rest of the country --essentially a Minuteman-controlled element. The Minutemen as individuals are involved in the assassination, I might add that the central structure, the control down to the anti-Castro Latins who worked at the operational level in Dealey Plaza, from the insanely patriotic oil millionaires sponsoring this, the connecting link really, the machinery which is making it work, are the Minutemen elements of the Dallas police force. And Jack Ruby should be regarded as a functionary of the Dallas police force. Now, I'm not saying a word here that we can't prove. I don't think it will come up necessarily in the Shaw case, but in time we will prove it, and in some cases it can be proved by the records themselves.

But, just to make one more point, Jack Ruby--to appreciate Jack Ruby's role, all you have to do is--well, let me give you an example. I don't want to indict the John Birch Society as an entire Society because there are many individuals who are members of the John Birch Society for idealistic reasons, and a few of them have helped. I don't like the concept of the Minutemen, because I don't like violence, I think it's really, although it's in the name of patriotism, I think it's really quite the opposite, but there are Minutemen involved, so I must say so. The fact remains that there are other individuals who were members of the Mimutemen that we have persuaded to help, and some even in Dallas. Now that I've made that saving point, you might say, I must poimt out that there are individuals very much involved in the John Birch Society, and the Minutemen of Dallas who were active in this thing.

The point about Ruby is that, if you want to get a picture of Jack Ruby's orientation, all you have to do is get his address book. And if you go through his adress book, among the names you will find the name "Tom Hill," and if you look behind "Tom Hill" you will see an address in Massachusetts; and that address actually is the address of Robert Welch, the president of the John Birch Society.

Now, again, that doesn't mean that the Society itself was in any way involved, but it gives you an idea of Jack Ruby's orientation.

Question: We have your simple statement that these are your charges, but where is the corroborating evidence?

Garrison Well, the corroborating evidence is in our files, Joe; but I don't quite know what I'm going to do with it before trial. If we can get the Shaw people to trial--they make periodic announcements that they're ready to go to trial, but then they file new pleadings; and now they've filed new pleadings, we can't set the case for trial.

Question: This is normal, isn't it?

Garrison Oh, yes, it's normal...Shaw has to be presumed innocent until he's proved guilty and because of that I am not going to bring anything out regarding Mr. Shaw, and I haven't mentioned his name yet.

Question: What happened in Dealey Plaza?

Garrison Joe, this is a question I would rather avoid in detail, because in the last six weeks we have been preparing our case in detail, and this is now an opening part of our case.

Question: What I was referring to--in your Playboy interview you refer to an assassination team of seven, if you can give us that in summary form...

Garrison I don't want to get into anything about precise details in Dealey Plaza because we've now made a decision that the first week or so of trial is going to go into Dealey Plaza.

Question: But you're not retracting what you said in Playboy about this team of two men behind the picket fence?

Garrison The only thing I have to say about that is that there are actually considerably more than seven men at Dealey Plaza. Seven is an inadequate description.

Question: And this will come up at the trial?

Garrison Dealey Plaza, yes. Not necessarily everything you have in mind, but the fact that there were a number of men at Dealey Plaza, including radio communication, use of transistor radios, to tell when the parade was coming, at what point it was turning, to signal when the guns were to be picked up, to indicate when the coast was clear--the Dealey Plaza operation will now be part of the trial.

Question: (Re: Lou Harris poll, 60 per cent think not much will come of his investigation)

Garrison It was not too long ago that many people would have fought you if you said the world was round...so I'm not greatly impressed by opinion as a device for determining the truth. The truth in this case depends on the evidence that objectively inquiring individuals develop,and has no logical relation at all to the opinions of individuals at large.

But this poll is a significant thing, nevertheless: What this poll means is that the establishment press, in their pounding away, in their hammering away at the fictions which have been contrived to try to discredit our investigation, has been successful to some extent. Again, it doesn't bother me, because it will be the establishment press's problem to try to readjust after we have convictions and after we continue to move forward. To appreciate the impact of the image-making machinery, once it understands how the Washington establishment feels, and how the Eastern New York establishment feels about something--to appreciate the impact, you must understand that we have not failed to clear a single hurdle in this case...We will be proved right, and it won't even be close. And I just wonder what they are going to say about it then.

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